

The proponents of the Communications Decency Act assured the Senate that such was not the intent of the amendment. In fact, Mr. President, some suggested that these types of concerns were raised in an effort to spin the issue. They suggested these fears were not real and were not likely to be realized.

I suggest to Members of this body that news reports over the weekend confirm just how quickly those fears could be realized if the Communications Decency Act became law. One of the companies providing on-line services to consumers, America Online, in an effort to screen out filthy, vulgar and obscene language, apparently included the word "breast" in the list of prohibited words on AOL's services.

Mr. President, the word "breast" has been used many times on the Senate floor with respect to health care legislation, is not even among the so-called seven dirty words. It is not indecent. It is not profane. Yet it was screened out by a service which has been under tremendous fire for not policing its networks carefully enough.

Of course, the deletion of the word breast was met with an enormous outcry by women who participate in a breast cancer survivors online support group. According to press reports the deletion of the word breast from allowable AOL language became known when an AOL subscriber created her member profile identifying herself as a breast cancer survivor. She received a message from AOL indicating she could not use "vulgar words." AOL soon was barraged by complaints by other users of the breast cancer survivors chat room. The word "breast" was subsequently allowed back on the service. However, an AOL spokesperson caveated that with "as long as it is used in an appropriate manner."

I mention this incident not to fault America Online. They are responding to a series of calls by interest groups, Members of Congress, and others to police speech over their services and to keep AOL family friendly. AOL like other on-line service providers is anticipating additional Government restrictions on speech over the Internet. When under the threat of Government imposed speech restrictions and potential criminal sanctions, it is quite reasonable to overreact, to be overly cautious, and to restrict more than that which is necessary.

Mr. President, this is exactly what I fear will happen if the Communications Decency Act becomes public law. Words will be banned. Speech will be restricted. This, Mr. President, is the chilling effect that Senator LEAHY and I referred to on the Senate floor just 5 months ago. Perfectly reasonable and acceptable language will be restricted and prohibited.

Mr. President, while it may seem ridiculous that the word "breast" was, at least for a short period of time, considered vulgar, it would not be unreasonable for a company like AOL to restrict

such words if the Communications Decency Act becomes law. Indecency is a largely undefined term. We know how the FCC has defined indecency for broadcast, but it is unclear what would be indecent on computer networks. If such restrictions are imposed, people will err on the side of caution in their speech. Under the Communications Decency Act, to protect themselves from criminal liability, on-line services will likely find themselves prohibiting the word "breast" as well as many other words. Adults with direct Internet access will also be forced to self-censor their speech, guessing what might be indecent, and guessing who might access their communications.

In Saturday's Chicago Tribune, Barbara LeStage, a member of the American Cancer Society, commented on the AOL prohibition on the use of the word "breast". Her comments, I think are fairly insightful. She stated

I don't have any problem with AOL trying to keep dirty words off their service. But I don't consider breast to be a dirty word. If you have people who see it as dirty, for whatever reason, then this [prohibition on use] is going to continue to happen.

Mr. President, Ms. LeStage is exactly right. If indecency is going to be outlawed and the term therefore defined by community standards and the courts, this will continue to happen. People differ in their beliefs about what is appropriate for children, about what is dirty, vulgar or indecent. To some individuals even extreme profanity may not be indecent, to others, perhaps the word "breast" is indecent. When AOL determined that "breast" would be allowed under appropriate circumstances, we must wonder under what circumstance would it be inappropriate and who decides.

This is the danger of government censorship of the Internet. Who defines what can be said without criminal sanctions? Who defines what is indecent? Who defines when certain terms are used appropriately and when they are not?

Mr. President, Congress has entered a very dangerous area in its attempt to restrict constitutionally protected speech on the Internet. In the next 24 hours, the Telecommunications conferees will decide which road to take—that of Government excess or that of caution.

I urge the conferees to err on the side of caution and to protect first amendment rights of Internet users. Such a goal is not inconsistent with our overriding objective of protecting children. Technology exists now to allow parents to screen out materials they find objectionable for their children. Obscenity, child pornography, and solicitation of minors via the Internet is already a violation of criminal law and is being aggressively prosecuted by the Department of Justice.

I urge my colleagues not to take the step toward censorship. I believe we will immediately regret it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from

South Carolina is to be recognized to speak.

Mr. SIMON. I have the consent of my colleague from South Carolina to speak for 2 minutes, if there is no objection, and I ask unanimous consent to speak.

Mr. DOMENICI. Reserving the right to object, I have to be at a negotiating session at 3 o'clock. I introduced this bill 4 years ago, so I ask if maybe I could have some time before 3 o'clock, 10 minutes or something?

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I suggest that we grant the unanimous-consent request of the Senator from Illinois, during which time—not to be disrespectful to his announcement—we sort out the time on this side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair must clarify that under the previous order, the Senator from Utah is to be recognized, then the Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. SIMON. I ask my colleague from Utah if he would permit me to speak for 2 minutes.

Mr. HATCH. I yield to the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY WILDCATS

Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, I send a resolution on behalf of Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN and myself congratulating Northwestern University's football team. It has been cleared on both sides.

Let me just say, after 24 losing seasons, they are going to go to the Rose Bowl. They now rank No. 3 in the Nation. Even more interesting, of all the division 1A schools in the Nation, they are No. 2 in scholastic aptitude tests.

I offer this resolution, and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration. It has been cleared on both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 197) to congratulate the Northwestern University Wildcats on winning the 1995 Big Ten Conference football championship and on receiving an invitation to compete in the 1996 Rose Bowl, and to commend Northwestern University for its pursuit of athletic and academic excellence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the resolution.

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

So the resolution (S. Res. 197) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 197

Whereas the Northwestern University Wildcats are the 1995 Big Ten Conference

football champions and have been invited to participate in the Rose Bowl on January 1, 1996, in Pasadena, California;

Whereas the winning of the 1995 Big Ten Conference football championship by the Wildcats completes an unprecedented 1-year turnaround of the Northwestern University football program; and

Whereas Northwestern University is committed to athletic competitiveness without diminution of scholastic standards: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Northwestern University and its athletes, coaches, faculty, students, administration, and alumni on the winning of the 1995 Big Ten Conference football championship by the Wildcats and on the receipt by the Wildcats of an invitation to compete in the 1996 Rose Bowl; and

(2) recognizes and commends Northwestern University for its pursuit of athletic as well as academic excellence.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

SENATOR THURMOND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I congratulate my colleague from South Carolina as well. There has never been anybody in the history of this body who has meant more to me personally than the distinguished Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent we go to the distinguished Senator from South Carolina and then the distinguished Senator from New Mexico for their remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. BRYAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, my understanding is our distinguished colleague from New Mexico needs 10 minutes?

Mr. DOMENICI. That will be adequate, I think.

Mr. BRYAN. I have no objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES TO IMPLEMENT THE BOSNIA PEACE AGREEMENT

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, last week, the Senate Armed Services Committee conducted a hearing with national security, foreign policy and intelligence experts, who were all former executive branch officials under Presidents Bush, Reagan, and Carter. All three witnesses supported deploying United States military forces to Bosnia to implement the peace plan because they believe it is critical to preserve the credibility and reliability of the United States as a world leader and as a member of the North Atlantic Alliance. While the three witnesses endorsed the deployment of U.S. military forces to implement the agreement, they also highlighted their concerns about the likelihood of disaster and questioned the ability of the implementation force to achieve any meaningful mission objectives. In fact, the witnesses all agreed that the best that

could be hoped for would be to sustain the ceasefire for the time period that NATO forces are in the region.

Last week, the President traveled to Europe to visit with our allies, and speak with the young men and women of the 1st Armored Division stationed in Germany who are to be deployed to Bosnia very shortly. One Sunday, President Clinton was briefed on the NATO implementation plan, and gave his conditional approval to the concept. Following that conditional approval, the President authorized the deployment of around 700 United States troops who will lay the groundwork for the arrival of the main body of the NATO Implementation Forces, who will deploy to Bosnia once the peace agreement is formally signed in Paris next week.

President Clinton spoke to the troops, informing them of the United States national interests that warrant their deployment to Bosnia to enforce the peace agreement. The President assured the troops that their mission is clear, limited and achievable and that the risks to their safety will be minimized. According to the director for strategic plans and policy in the office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Wes Clark, all U.S. forces should be in the region within 30 days of the formal signing of the agreement in Paris on December 14.

According to the Department of Defense, the overall concept of the mission of the implementation force will be to monitor and enforce compliance with the military aspects of the Dayton peace agreement.

The military tasks of the Dayton agreement include: Supervise the ceasefire lines and zones of separation; monitor, and if necessary enforce the withdrawal of forces to their respective territories within the agreed time periods; establish and man the 4-kilometer zone of separation; establish liaison with local military and civilian authorities; and create joint military commissions to resolve disputes between the parties.

All implementation forces, NATO and non-NATO, will operate under NATO rules of engagement. Those rules of engagement will permit the right to use force up to and including deadly force for self-defense to protect against hostile acts or hostile intentions, and, in order to accomplish the mission.

Despite a briefing by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as congressional hearings this past week with administration officials, I continue to have grave concerns and questions about the clarify of the mission, and whether the goals and objectives of the mission can be achieved within the limited deployment framework.

I know that our young military men and women are well-trained, the best equipped in the world and ready to go. What I am most concerned about is whether all their training and equip-

ment will have prepared them for the sniper fire, the landmines, the terrible terrain and weather in which they will have to live. I am also concerned about possible kidnappings that could occur and how our troops will be treated. Will they be treated as prisoners of war, or political or legal detainees.

In 1945, United States military forces were sent into to an area near Tuzla to keep Yugoslavian partisan out of Trieste. We were not officially at war, but the partisans resented the presence of the U.S. forces and ambushed U.S. patrols and aircraft with sniper fire, landmines, and booby traps. It took 9 years for an agreement to be reached before the 1 year mission was completed and U.S. forces came home.

Mr. President, there are already signs of dissensions among the parties to the agreement. The Serbs continue to press for a renegotiation because the agreement would require Sarajevo to come under control of the Moslem-Croat federation and Serbian civilians feel they will not be protected. Our French allies have raised concerns that their troops could become trapped if there is renewed fighting. Additionally, the United States is being viewed as being partial to the Bosnians as a result of their support and there is a feeling that United States military forces will not be impartial.

As I stated earlier, in statements on the floor and in hearings, I continue to have grave concerns about the vital interests that have lead the President to commit U.S. military forces to implement this peace agreement. I am not yet convinced that we have a vital national interest in Bosnia that requires the deployment of United States military forces, or that our national security interests are being threatened.

On Wednesday, Secretary of Defense Perry, Assistant Secretary Holbrooke and General Shalikashvili will appear before the Senate Armed Services Committee. I intend to ask more questions about the mission, objectives of the mission and the timeframe, the exit strategy; why it is necessary to have over 60,000 heavily armed military forces with armored vehicles as peacekeepers; how the implementation forces will separate the opposing forces; and how the U.S. military forces will avoid taking on nonmilitary tasks, when it appears that the civilian humanitarian services and operations will take at least 6 months to begin operation.

Mr. President, I do not intend to rubberstamp a commitment by the President. I will reserve final judgement until after the hearings have taken place, and then make a final decision.

I yield the floor.

PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the conference report.